

May 4, 1989

LB 769

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well, isn't it...what was said here is that immediate threat or grave risk to the life or health of the pregnant minor. If it's not a grave risk to the...she doesn't die, I mean the doctors...well she may not die, but she is going to be so gravely injured that she's not going to be able to lead a normal life, can't the physician perform the abortion?

SENATOR LINDSAY: I guess I'd have to answer with a question and maybe you can define for me what is a grave risk to health? What is a minimum grave risk to health?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Pretty bad, I mean that's worse than a cold.

SENATOR LINDSAY: That's the maximum. What's the...what is the bottom line on it?

SENATOR ASHFORD: Well I think...you know, what other words...I mean we can sit and talk about words, but I mean...

SENATOR LINDSAY: Sure.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...but you see the con...do you agree with the concept?

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: That is not the...but that is not the amendment that was offered. The amendment that was offered...

SENATOR ASHFORD: I'm reading the amendment that was offered.

SENATOR LINDSAY: The amendment that was offered has the broad language referring to the health of the person. It's talking about...

SENATOR ASHFORD: No, it says grave risk to the life or health, grave risk or immediate threat.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Grave risk, not to the serious...the grave is referring to the risk. We're getting into the semantics and construction of statute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Okay, well if I was to find the words that would define health to make it so that we had a very serious medical condition that may not cause death but may cause